

YOUTH

Corinth, thank you for reading this week's review! I hope that this will be a great help to you all for discipleship and kingdom growth in your homes! This week we had a shorter lesson, that focused on the Easter story and what it really means. We didn't have a sermon necessarily, as much as a round table discussion. Here are the highlights that we talked about. After reading, please send me some feedback to let me know if/how this resource was helpful. Love you guys!

Matthew 27:27-54

1. The Crown of thorns

When people see the crown of thorns, what do they think of? What is the significance of that method of pain? You know the Bible actually tells us where thorns come from. We read the passage in Genesis chapter 3 where God says that Adam will have to endure thorns and thistles in the ground, after he and Eve sinned. When Jesus lets the soldiers put that crown of thorns on him, He is saying that He is crowning Himself with the sins of mankind. We are the reason for the thorns. We are the reason He was crucified. And the crown of thorns symbolizes that He reigns supreme, exalted over all of our sins.

2. The Cross

As many Christians know, the cross was not made for Jesus alone. This was a method of execution that was long and drawn out, humiliating, and literally excruciating. That is where the word comes from! The cross was reserved for those criminals of the highest offenses. A criminal is someone who acts in defiance according to the law that is set up by the authority... if that doesn't describe sinners, then I don't know what does. DO you see the picture that our Lord is painting? He is taking our spot! He is taking our thorns, and now OUR cross, and just as 2 Corinthians 5:21 says, "He who had not known sin, BECAME SIN for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God."

3. The Veil

Many of the students had no idea what the significance was that the veil in the temple was torn. So, we had a great discussion about what is significant about that event! After Jesus "yielded up His spirit" the Bible says the veil in the temple was torn from top to bottom. This veil covered what is known in the temple as the "Holy of Holies." The only person who had access to this place was the high priest. This place is where the Spirit of God resided, and not just anyone could walk up in there, it was a very serious and ritualistic process just to even enter that place. In fact, it was practice that when the high priest went in there, they would tie a rope around his foot because if he died while behind the veil, they would be able to drag him out. But Jesus did away with all of that.

Jesus made the way for all people to be able to have access to the Father. By the shedding of His blood, He became the final sacrifice and built the bridge between us and the Father. That is the significance of Easter. That is why we celebrate what Jesus did by His death, burial, and resurrection!

I challenged the students to read a couple passages in their Bibles this week. I challenged them to read Psalm 22. Jesus cried out the first line of this song from the cross, and the interesting thing about it is that David wrote this Psalm as a prophecy, and it perfectly describes the crucifixion of Jesus... except he wrote it over 400 years before the first crucifixion ever took place.

I also challenged them to read back through the 27th and 28th Chapter of Matthew, just to understand and continue to see how important Easter is not only to us as Christians, but to the whole world.

Parents, I thank you guys for your support in this ministry. I am excited about what God has done, what He is doing, and what He will do! Please do not forget to look at the summer information form, and please remember that Look Up Lodge deposits are due next Sunday. Love you guys and I am here if you need ANYTHING!
-Wesley

